Production cost of cotton

549. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production for cotton is increasing every year;

(b) what efforts Government is making to help the farmers to increase the productivity of cotton per hectare; and

(c) whether the Minimum Support Price is enough to cover the cost and profit for the farmers of different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Cost of production of cotton for all-India, in terms of weighted average A2 +FL cost *(viz.* all expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in land and imputed value of wages of family labour), during the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are given in the following Table:

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Weighted average A2 +FL cost (in Rs. per Quintal)	1549.01	1538.93	1528.11
MSP per quintal for medium staple (F-414/H-777/J34)	1760	1770	1800
MSP per quintal for short staple (H-4)	1980	1990	2030

Government of India fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic varieties of cotton for the country as a whole *viz.* medium staple *i.e.* F-414/H-777/J34 and long staple i.e. H-4 on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). The MSP for the two varieties are given in the Table above. While recommending the MSP, the CACP takes into account the relevant factors including the cost of production in the States. The basic objective of the Government price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to growers for their produce with a view to encouraging higher investment and production in relatively low cost areas, due to a higher margin of profit in such areas.

In order to increase production and productivity of cotton, the Government has launched the centrally sponsored shceme of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) since 2000-01 in major cotton growing States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme, assistance is provided through demonstration at farmer's field, training of farmers and extension workers as well as supply of inputs such as certified seeds/hybrids not older than 15 years, sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation systems to cotton growers.

Comprehensive Food Policy

†550. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive food policy keeping in view the instability in production of foodgrains, pulses and sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the new food policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has a comprehensive policy under which Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations are carried out by the agencies designated by Government. Farmers have the option to sell their produce at MSP or in open market, as is advantageous to them. This policy ensures that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. This also enables the Government to procure foodgrains for servicing the Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. Maintenance of a buffer stock of foodgrains to ensure food security is also one of the important objectives of food policy. Government of India have also launched a new scheme titled National Food Security Mission to increase production and productivity of foodgrains, so that the food requirement of the population is met in adequate measure.

Agriculture products purchased by NAFED

551. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural products purchased by NAFED from farmers, giving the names of the items and the rates at which purchased, item-wise and quantity-wise in each of the last three years;

(b) at what rate, NAFED sold these products and in which year; and

(c) the reasons for bestowing the import of pulses together with the quantity to be purchased and the money involved therein than to NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) NAFED is the Central nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds and pulses at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government for each crop season under Price Support Scheme (PSS). Procurement under PSS is made only when the prices during the crop season rule below the MSP. The details of the oilseeds and pulses purchased by NAFED from farmers under PSS during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(b) NAFED has disposed of the oilseeds and pulses procured under PSS on day to day basis at the best prevailing market rates as per its prescribed sales procedure. The sale procedure of NAFED is that sales are made in the open market at the best available day to day prices after inviting offers/tenders/quotations from private firms/millers/cooperative institutions/Government institutions/State Civil Supplies Corporations etc.

(c) NAFED was allowed import of pulses. NAFED imported 2.60 lakh MT of pulses valuing approximately Rs. 491 crores. The National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) was also allowed to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of pulses (urad, tur and moong) in the current year. However, so far, NCCF has not imported any quantity of pulses.